

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02470 181135Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
/050 W

-----098408 181139Z /13

P R 181100Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7703
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS COLOMBO 2470

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CE

SUBJ: LAKE HOUSE STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: COLOMBO 2447

1. STRIKEING JOURNALISTS AND STAFF OF THE LAKE HOUSE NEWS-PAPER SGROUP ARE CONTINUING THEIR STRIKE IN PROTEST OF THE PRO-GOVERNMENT SLANT IN LAKE HOUSE REPORTING AND IN ANTICIPATION OF THURSDAY'S GENERAL ELECTION. THEY ORIGINALLY WALKED OUT JULY 14 (REFTEL). THE LAKE HOUSE MANAGEMENT CLOSED THE OFFICE OVER THE WEEKEND, MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO PRINT THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY EDITIONS. MORNING SAW A LOW-CIRCULATION TRUNCATED FOUR-PAGE SINHALA EDITION PROBABLY PRINTED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT'S BABY ROTARY PRESS AND DISTRIBUTED BY TAXI. APPARENTLY ATTEMPTS TO PRINT THE PAPER AT THE RIVAL TIMES GROUP AND AT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS WERE REBUFFED.

2. THE IMMEDIATE TRIGGER FOR THE STRIKE WAS A PAPER CAPTION IN WHICH OPPOSITION LEADER J.R. JAYEWARDENE WAS SUPPOSEDLY MISQUOTED AND LAKE HOUSE PLANS TO PRINT AN OLD PHOTO OF J.R. DANCING AT A POSH PARTY. IN ADDITION THERE WAS THE INCENTIVE OF PREVENTING THE PUBLICATION OF THE ALWAYS-BULKY SUNDAY
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 02470 181135Z

PAPERS WHICH WERE TO BE BEEFED UP THIS WEEK WITH 20-PAGE SPECIAL ELECTION EDITIONS. PRESUMABLY THESE WOULD HAVE CONTAINED PAEANS OF PRAISE FOR THE BANDARANAIKE YEARS.

3. THE OTHER MAJOR NEWSPAPER GROUP, PUBLISHERS OF THE SUN AND DAVASA, PUBLISHED ITS OWN ELECTION EDITIONS SUNDAY AND LEFT NO DOUBT WHERE ITS EDITORIAL SYMPATHIES LAY. THE SUN

DEVOTED TWO-THIRDS OF ITS FRONT PAGE TO A LENGTHY INTERVIEW
WITH J.R. ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH. THE REST OF THE PAPER
WAS DEVOTED TO SUCH ITEMS AS AN EXCERPT FROM A 10-YEAR OLD
BOOK TITLED "THE INSIDE STORY OF THE SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY."
THE SUN GROUP'S VERY INFLUENTIAL ASTROLOGICAL WEEKLY PRE-
DICTED A UNP VICTORY THIS WEEK.
PERKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAKE HOUSE STRIKE CONTINUES
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, CE, LAKE HOUSE
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Review Markings:
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